

Applic. No. 10/700,119

Amdt. dated May 23, 2005

Reply to Office action of February 22, 2005

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-21 remain in the application. Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, and 18 have been amended. Claims 5 and 11 are being cancelled herewith.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-4, 9, 10, 13-16, and 19-21 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Iwamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,700,626) (hereinafter "Iwamoto") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

It is appreciatively noted from page 3 of the Office action that claims 5-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Therefore claim 1 is allowable. Since claim 1 is allowable, dependent claims 2-4 and 6-8 are allowable as well.

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Claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Therefore claim 9 is allowable.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Therefore claim 16 is allowable. Since claim 16 is allowable, dependent claims 19-21 are allowable as well.

In the first paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claims 11, 12, 17, and 18 have been rejected as being obvious over Iwamoto (U.S. Patent No. 4,700,626) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and as a whole the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 11. Therefore, claim 10 will be discussed with regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

The Iwamoto reference discloses a first cylinder (47) having a gripper system (50) and a second cylinder (48) with a second gripper system (8,9) (Figs. 5 and 6).

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The Examiner stated on page 3 of the Office action, that Iwamoto does not show the detailed structure of the gripper system (50) on the cylinder (47). The Examiner also stated that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the sheet-fed printing machine of Iwamoto with a second gripper system on the first cylinder (47) with the exact structure as in the first gripper system (8, 9) of the second cylinder (48).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. Even though Iwamoto does not disclose the detail of the gripper system (50) of the first cylinder (47) in the specification, it is apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art from Figs. 5 and 6 of Iwamoto that the gripper system (50) of the first cylinder (47) and the gripper system (8, 9) of the second cylinder (48) differ from each other with regard to their construction.

It is apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art that in view of the disclosure of Iwamoto (turning of the sheet by means of the cylinders (47 and 48)) that there is no motivation to construct two identical gripper systems, in fact the person of ordinary skill in the art is taught away from such a modification. Accordingly, it is respectfully believed that the Examiner's position that it would have been obvious

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to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the sheet-fed printing machine of Iwamoto with a second gripper system on the first cylinder (47) with the exact structure as in the first gripper system (8, 9) of the second cylinder (48), is not correct.

Based on the above-given comments claim 10 is believed to be allowable. Since claim 10 is believed to be allowable, dependent claim 12 is believed to be allowable as well.

Since claim 16 is allowable, dependent claims 17 and 18 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 10 and 12-15 are solicited.

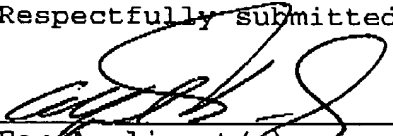
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner &
Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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